

## CLAIMS

1. A method for network security comprising:
  - receiving a request from a remote address at a host;
  - observing a pattern associated with the request;
  - 5 authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request; and
  - enabling access to the host by the remote address for a configurable time period if the remote address is authenticated.
- 10 2. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 further including preventing a response from being sent to the remote address.
3. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
15 recited in claim 1 wherein receiving a request from a remote address at the host further includes receiving a probe.
4. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
recited in claim 1 wherein observing a pattern associated with the request further includes  
20 recording data received at the host.
5. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
recited in claim 1 wherein observing a pattern associated with the request further includes  
matching the pattern to a list.  
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6. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
recited in claim 1 wherein observing a pattern associated with the request further includes  
recording a sequence.

7. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes comparing the pattern to a list.
- 5 8. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes comparing the pattern to a password.
9. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
10 recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes preventing a response being sent to the remote address if the remote address fails to authenticate.
10. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
15 recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes denying access to the host if the remote address fails to authenticate.
11. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
20 recited in claim 1 wherein authenticating the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request further includes sending a message to the remote address if the request fails to authenticate.
12. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
25 recited in claim 1 wherein enabling access to the host by the remote address further includes providing access for a configurable amount of time.
13. A method for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration as  
30 recited in claim 1 wherein enabling access to the host by the remote address further includes implementing a handshake between the remote address and the host.

14. A system for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration comprising:

5 a port for receiving a request from a remote address;  
a listening module for observing a pattern associated with the request; and  
an agent for authenticating the remote address and the pattern associated with the request and enabling access to the port if the pattern associated with the request is authenticated.

10 15. A data signal embodied in a carrier wave comprising:

instructions for receiving a request from a remote address at a port;  
instructions for observing a pattern associated with the request;  
instructions for authenticating the request from the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request; and  
15 instructions for enabling access by the address to the port to initiate a connection if the request is authenticated.

16. A computer program product for preventing network discovery of a system services configuration, the computer program product being embodied in a computer  
20 readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving a request from a remote address at a port;  
observing a pattern associated with the request;  
authenticating the request from the remote address based on the pattern associated with the request; and  
25 enabling access by the address to the port to initiate a connection if the request is authenticated.